PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: A7909

Nicholas V. NECHITAILO, et al.

Appln. No.: 09/973,015

Confirmation No.: 5104

Group Art Unit: 2874

Filed: October 10, 2001

Examiner: Ellen E. Kim

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS TO REDUCE VARIATION OF EXCESS FIBER

LENGTH IN BUFFER TUBES OF FIBER OPTIC CABLES

<u>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</u> <u>UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98</u>

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from the application's filing date; (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a request for continued examination (RCE) under §1.114, and therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

U.S. Appln. No.: 09/973,015

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

Registration No. 32,778

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WASHINGTON OFFICE

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CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: February 26, 2004

	Substitute for Form 1449 A & B/PTO							
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Complete if Known						
Application Number	09/973,015					
Confirmation Number	5104					
Filing Date	October 10, 2001					
First Named Inventor	Nicholas V. NECHITAILO					
Art Unit	2874					
Examiner Name	Ellen E. Kim					
Attorney Docket Number	A7909					

	U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner	Cite No.1	Document Number		Publication Date					
Initials*		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)	MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document				
		US 4,096,010		06/20/1978	Parham, et al.				
	US 5,064,490		11/12/1991	Chapin, et al.					
		US 4,445,649		05/01/1984	Yataki, et al.				
		US 5,841,932		11/24/1998	Page, et al.				
Ĭ		US 5,967,454		10/19/1999	Yarnell, et al.				
		US 6,066,275		05/23/2000	Robinson, et al.				
		US 3,792,826		02/19/1974	Zebley				
		US 5,988,556		11/23/1999	Bednarczyk, et al.				
		US 3,989,578		11/02/1976	Hashimoto				

	FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner		Foreign Patent Document			Publication Date	Name of Patentee or		
Initials*		MM-DD-YYYY	Applicant of Cited Document	Translation ⁶				
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NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published.					

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Substitute for Form 1449 A & B/PTO	Complete if Known		
PE WEEDING TYON DIGGLOCKED	Application Number	09/973,015	
information disclusure	Confirmation Number	5104	
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT	Filing Date	October 10, 2001	
2 6 2004 😅	First Named Inventor	Nicholas V. NECHITAILO	
(use as many sheets as necessary)	Art Unit	2874	
	Examiner Name	Ellen E. Kim	
Sheet 2 of 2	Attorney Docket Number	Δ 7909	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials*		Document N	umber	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY			
	Cite No.1	Number	Kind Code ² (if known)		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document		
		US 4,920,738		05/01/1990	White, et al.		
		US 3,694,711		09/26/1972	Bonikowski, et al		
		US 3,800,196		03/26/1974	Zimmermann		
		US 3,910,521		10/07/1975	O'Callaghan, et al.		
		US 4,655,410		04/07/1987	Ruffin, et al.		
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		US 6,024,319		02/15/2000	Kawabata, et al.		
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Examiner	Cite	Foreign Patent Document			Publication Date	Name of Patentee or	
Initials*	No.1	Country Code ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	MM-DD-YYYY	Applicant of Cited Document	Translation ⁶
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Examiner Signature	Date Considered	,
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